

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: **A BUSINESS METHOD FOR RESERVING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS IN MATERIALS OR ARTICLES CLAIMED IN PATENTS**, the specification of which:

☒ is attached hereto.
 — was filed on _____ as Application Serial No. _____
 and was amended on _____
 (if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office all information which is material to patentability (as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56) in connection with the examination of this application.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the matter provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

| _____ (Application Serial No.) | _____ (Filing Date) | _____ (Status) (patented, pending, abandoned) |
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I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed.

| _____ Country | _____ Application No. | _____ Date of Filing | _____ Priority Claimed |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|

I hereby appoint Kenneth S. Wheelock, Reg. No. 36,340 of 25 Juliana Drive, Pittsfield, MA 01201; Kourosh Salehi, Reg. No. 43,898 of Ostrolenk, Faber, Gerb & Soffen, LLP, 1180 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036; Michelle Bugbee, Reg. No. 42,370 of Spalding Sports Worldwide, Inc., 425 Meadow Street, Chicopee, MA 01013; Mary R. Bonzagni, Reg. No. 34,779 and Donald S. Holland, Reg. No. 29,391 of Holland & Associates, Longmeadow Professional Park, 171 Dwight Road, Longmeadow, MA 01106 jointly and each of them severally, my attorneys or agents and attorney or agent, with full power of substitution, delegation and revocation, to prosecute this application, to make alterations and amendments therein, to receive the patent and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. I hereby direct that all correspondence and telephone calls in connection with this application be addressed to the said:

Kenneth S. Wheelock at 25 Juliana Drive, Pittsfield, MA, 01201
Telephone No.: (413) 442-7759

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that all such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole or first inventor Kenneth S. Wheelock

Inventor's signature

Kenneth S. Wheelock February 5, 2001
Date

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